

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00296 280813Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W  
-----281308Z 083080 /42  
R 271716Z JAN 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3909

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0296

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, WB UR  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH: FLAG TOURS

AT EMBASSY BONN'S REQUEST WE ARE REPEATING A  
TEXT OF US INTRA-BERLIN MESSAGE COMMENTING ON  
BRITISH REPORT SEPTEL  
FOLLOWING IS REPEATE OF U.S. INTRA-BERLIN 0043  
OF JANUARY 25, 1977

QUOTE

SUBJ: AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH: FLAG TOURS

REF: UNNUMBERED BRIB OF 21 JAN 1977

1. WE THINK ABRASIMOV WAS EXAGGERATING THE EXTENT AND  
SCOPE OF OUR PATROL ACTIVITIES. WE SEND AN AVERAGE OF FOUR  
AND A MAXIMUM OF FIVE PATROLS TO THE SOVIET SECTOR EACH DAY.  
LAST WEEK WE SENT 28 PATROLS, OF WHICH TEN PASSED THE SOVIET  
EMBASSY. OUR FLAG TOURS DO NOT NORMALLY TAKE CAMERAS, IN  
FACT THEY HAVE ONLY DONE SO TWICE SINCE OCTOBER. IN ADDITION  
THEY DO NOT STOP IN FRONT OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO MAKE  
OBSERVATIONS OF ITS VISITORS. THE MAIN REASON WE HAVE AS  
MANY AS TEN OR TWELVE PATROLS GOING PAST THE SOVIET  
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EMBASSY EACH WEEK IS BECAUSE IT LIES ON A MAJOR THOROUGHFARE  
IN THE SOVIET SECTOR.  
2. IT MAY BE THAT PASSENGERS IN OUR PRIVATE CARS ARE STOPPING  
OUTSIDE OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY AND TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS  
OF IT, AS IT IS TO SOME, I SUPPOSE, A PHOTOGRAPHERS'  
CURIOSITY. OUR REGULATIONS DO NOT FORBID PHOTOGRAPHING  
THE SOVIET EMBASSY, NOR DO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, REGULA-

TIONS IN EFFECT IN THE EASTERN SECTOR.

3. AS REGARDS ABRASIMOV'S ASSERTION THAT THERE IS ONLY AN AVERAGE OF ONE SOVIET CAR VISITING EACH OF THE THREE WESTERN SECTORS PER WEEK , WE FIND THE FACTS CONTRADICT HIM. IN THE WEEK JAN. 10-16. 40 SOVIET VEHICLES CAME TO OUR SECTORS, 7 OF WHICH WERE TO DELIVER THE BASC CONTINGENT AND 7 TO SERVICE THE SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL, LEAVING 26 VEHICLES FOR AN AVERAGE OF 3-4 PATROLS A DAY.

4. IF ABRASIMOV RAISES THIS MATTER AGAIN, OR IF IT COMES UP IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS, WE INTEND TO RESPOND THAT WE THINK OUR PERIODIC VISITS BY OUR MILITARY VEHICLES TO EAST BERLIN ARE MODEST. WE NOTE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THEM DO NOT GO PAST THE SOVIET EMBASSY. IT MAY BE THAT PRIVATE VISITORS TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN THE SOVIET SECTOR FIND IT INTERESTING TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY. BUT SURELY THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THE SOVIETS WOULD OBJECT TO ANY MORE THAN THEY WOULD OBJECT TO PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMERICAN TOURISTS OF RED SQUARE AND THE KREMLIN. WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE REMARK THAT THERE IS JUST ONE VISIT PER WEEK TO EACH OF THE THREE SECTORS WHEN IN FACT RECORDS SUGGEST THAT THERE ARE MORE LIKE THREE OR FOUR PER DAY.

5. MORE IMPORTANT TO US IN THIS MATTER IS THE APPEARANCE OF ABRASIMOV'S REMARKS IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT ALLIED AND FRG ACTIONS ( AND NON-ACTIONS) WITH REGARD TO GDR ASSAULTS ON THE STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN. WITH THE RECENT EROSION OF UNIQUE ELEMENTS WHICH DISTINGUISH  
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EAST BERLIN FROM THE GDR, WE FIND THE RIGHT OF ALLIED ACCESS BECOMING MORE AND MORE AN ISOLATED DISTINGUISHING FEATURE.

UNQUOTE  
DAVIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, AMBASSADORS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USBERL00296  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770031-0564  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3478903  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH: FLAG TOURS AT EMBASSY BONN'S REQUEST WE ARE REPEATING A TEXT OF US INTRA-BERLIN  
MESSAGE COMMENTING ON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, WB, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/96aab5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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